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Holiday Spending

Foreign visitors are spending more in Switzerland, and Swiss are also digging deeper in their pockets when going abroad.

Foreign tourists spent Sfr11.7 billion last year, while Swiss spent Sfr10.4 billion abroad.

The biggest share of foreign spending in Switzerland went on hotels and spas, with a small drop for stays in rented holiday homes and at camping sites.

The rise in foreign tourist revenue in Switzerland was more a result of increased food and souvenir buying rather than spending on accommodation.

Circus Knie on the Road

The legendary Circus Knie now uses a combination of humour, poetry and tradition in the Big Top. Although the Swiss public doesn't necessarily like to see wild animals, they still want to see the traditional circus. Public tastes have changed, and some elements of theatre are included in the show.

This year's programme includes clowns, jugglers, acrobats, and gentler animal acts with elephants, zebras, horses, and even pigeons. A big challenge facing the circus is television, but the circus will survive as it is an attractive and live show.

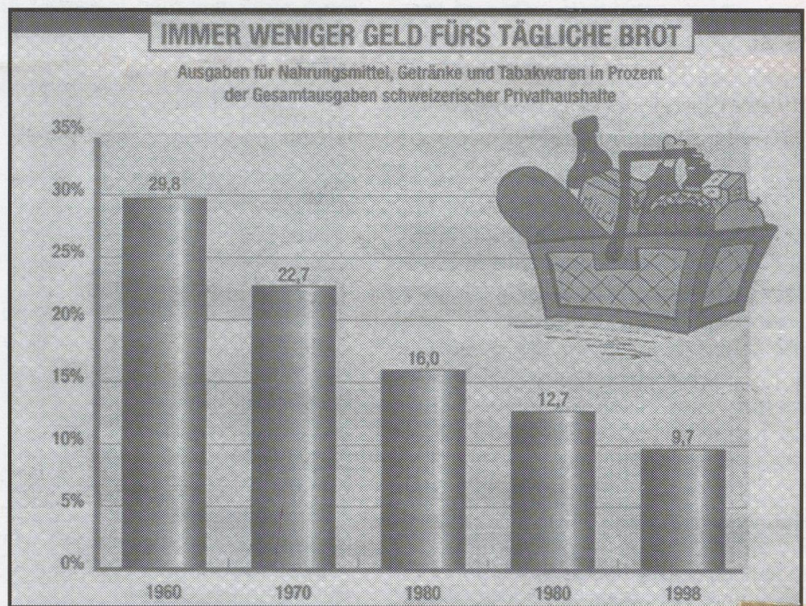
The circus visits all parts of the country, setting up its tent in 53 cities and towns during the seven month tour. The tent holds up to 26,000 spectators, and is Switzerland's biggest circus. It was established in the mid-1800s by Friedrich Knie, and in 1919 his grandsons set up a permanent company and moved into a traditional circus tent.

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